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REMARKS

Claim 1-20, 31, 32, 34-39, 50, 51 and 53-58 are pending in the present application.

The specification has been amended for a number of inadvertent errors. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment in the specification merely involves editorial changes with no new matter included.

In the aforementioned Office Action, claims 31, 35-39, 50 and 54 were objected to for various informalities.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's keen observation. By this amendment, the informalities as identified by the Examiner have been amended. Claims 35 and 54 have been canceled. The Examiner's objection on these claims is thereby obviated.

Claims 31 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In the rejection, the Examiner pointed out that the specification (§ [1110]) fails to teach estimating the distance between the base station and the mobile unit by determining the round trip time between the mobile unit and two other base stations, as claimed in claims 31 and 50.

Claims 31 and 50 concern with providing initial timing to the slave station during power up. When the slave station is first powered on, it has no initial reference time which is needed to communicate with any mobile station. However, the initial timing in accordance with one aspect of the invention can be obtained, for example, via a backhaul between the reference station and the slave station. Thereafter, the slave station has a starting point in terms of timing to communicate with the mobile stations. This has been explained, for example in paragraph [1116] of the specification. In paragraph [1116], the reverse link communications with the mobile stations are said to be described in "section VIII" of the specification. Section VIII in fact is the section labeled "Time Transfer When Not in Soft Handoff" which includes paragraphs

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[1108] to [1114], as can be shown in U.S. Patent No. 6,307,840, which is a parent of the instant application. The specification has been amended to reflect the correct identification. The aforementioned section (i.e., from ¶s [1108] to [1114]) shows support for claims 31 and 50. For example, the alleged lack of teaching of estimating the distance between the base station and the mobile unit by determining the round trip time between the mobile as pointed out in the aforementioned Office Action can be found in paragraph [1111].

With sufficient support as explained above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 31 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 17 and 50 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Without prejudice, claims 7 and 17 have been canceled by this amendment. The Examiner's rejection on these claims is thereby averted. As for claim 50, it has been amended. The part of the claim of reciting the receiver performing time adjusting has been deleted. Accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

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In light of the above amendment and remarks, coupled with the allowed claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 32, 35-39, 51 and 53-58, the remaining claims in the application, claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 31, 32, 34, 36-39, 50, 51, 53 and 55-58, are submitted to be patentable over the prior art. The application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully requested. In the event of any additional fees that may be due with this response, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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